

Summer 2018
Newsletter #12

It's a DUCKY DERBY!!

Sunday, September 16th

(note the date change since last newsletter!)

Launch Time 4pm!



It's almost time for the "Ducky Derby"! Over the past 3 months we have been selling tickets assigned to a rubber duck for \$10 each—or 3/\$25. Each duck will be assigned a number that will be written on the duck prior to the event. The purchaser will be given a ticket (not the actual duck) with their duck's number. All of the numbered ducks will be dropped into Indian Creek at the Earlville County Club on the Hole #1 bridge and will race through the current toward the finish line at Hole #5 bridge. The first 3 ducks to cross the finish line will be awarded a cash prize—**\$400 for 1st, \$75 for 2nd and \$25 for 3rd** place.

You do NOT have to be present to win, but we encourage everyone who can to come down and cheer their duck on to victory. If you are planning to come and view the event, please be at the Golf Course by 3:30pm so that we can all walk down to the launch area as a group. We will be offering a hot dog dinner (includes chips and cookies) for \$4/person at the conclusion of the race. Extra hot dogs are \$2 each (after purchasing the dinner). All drinks will be purchased from the County Club.

If you have not yet purchased your Ducky(s) please plan to have them bought no later than September 9th. We need to stop sales at that time to make sure that we have time to number all of the ducks. **"Out of towners" can send a check to Earlville Community Historical Society, PO Box 683, Earlville IL 60518 - Attention: Ducky Derby—but, because of delays, please have it in the mail no later than September 1.**

Of course the date of the event will be dependent on the weather and the level of water in the creek! If there is bad weather or a flood (or if the wa-

MUSEUM

136 S. Ottawa St.
P.O. Box 683
Earlville, IL 60518

HOURS

Saturday 10am-2pm
Sunday 12pm-2pm
CLOSED JAN.-MAR.

Anytime by appointment
Call:
815-246-9778
815-985-3763

www.earlvillehistory.org
earlville.history@yahoo.com

"Like" us on Facebook!



Meetings

Our meetings are currently being held at 9am on the first Saturday of every month. Next meeting will be Saturday, Sep. 1st, at the Museum.

2018 Officers

Pres	Rich Goodbred
VP	Stan Meloy
Sec	Karen Wold
Treas	Kris Goodbred
Directors:	Tracy Smith Bill Mitchell Larry Maly

CALENDAR SALES!

Back by popular demand!!!

We will be selling 2019 calendars again this year chock full of new (OLD) pictures from around town. Thanks for those of you who responded asking that we do this again this year. We hope it will be as successful as last year! We will try to be better-prepared for the overwhelming sales that we experienced for the 2018 calendar.

The cost will be the same—\$15 per calendar plus shipping (\$1.50 *per calendar*). Sales will start sometime in late October.

Stay tuned to our Facebook page for more information

ECHS

Website Changes!!

Over the next couple of months we will be changing over our website to a new vendor. Our address will stay the same (www.earlvillehistory.org), but the look will be different. The site will be “under construction” for a while so we appreciate your patience.

A big thanks to Chet Wold who has volunteered his time as our webmaster for the past few years!

JUST FOR FUN!

Middle age is when you still believe you'll feel better in the morning.

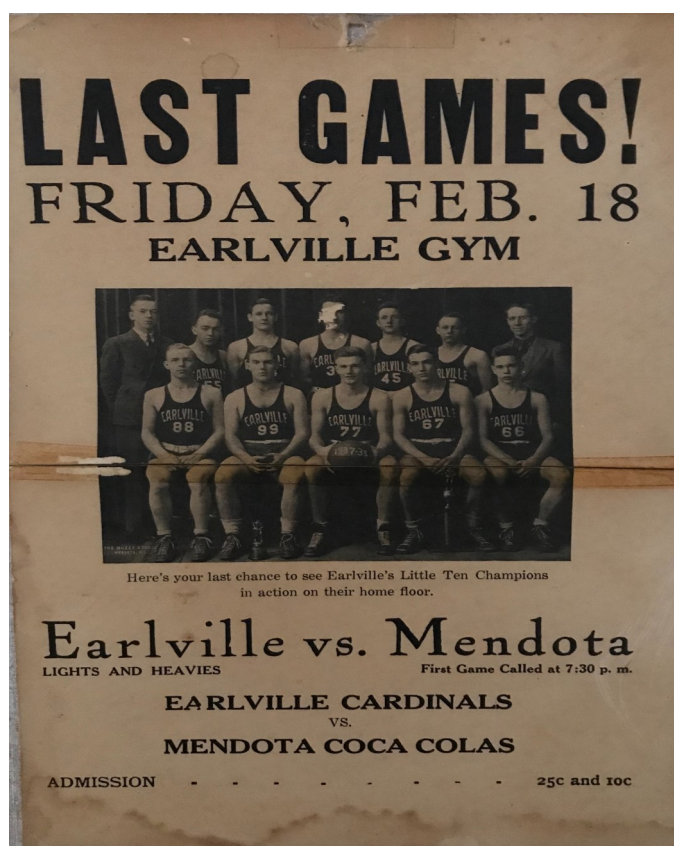
Bob Hope

Thank You

The Earlville Community Historical Society gratefully accepts the generous donations made by the Family of Judi (Prater) Hughes. Both the Prater and Hughes families have been longtime residents, and Judi was honored as the Earlville Centennial Queen during that celebration in 1963. Our sincere condolences to P.R, Jim, Sheri, their extended family and many friends.



Can You Help Us??



What can you tell us about the Earlville Cardinals? From the information on the poster it sounds as though it is an EHS sport, but in the newspapers we've found simultaneous articles referring to the EHS Raiders basketball team and the Earlville Cardinals. There are some references to the Legion sponsoring the Cardinals. Most information has been found in newspapers during the 1930s and 40s. Talk to your parents, grandparents, etc. and drop us an email with any information you might have!! Thanks!

A Murder Near the Cabin

A few years ago, Bud Fischer was working on a waterway in the field to the north of his home when he ran into what appeared to be a foundation. Using an early plat map he was able to see a structure in that location, and it turned out to be a cabin that was built by an early Earl township settler (1835) by the name of James Phillips. It was reported that Phillips had settled a claim on that land and quarreled with a Lowell Morse who was constantly crossing over the land with his dog. One day in January of 1843, "Phillips had his gun and raised it to shoot and Morse said 'Shoot me, not the dog.' Morse ran between Phillips and the dog and was shot, the bullet striking him in the shoulder and heart." Phillips immediately turned himself into the authorities. The interesting part of the story, however, is that, although Phillips was convicted of manslaughter, he was set free. "The general assembly had repealed the old manslaughter law and enacted a new one but left an interim during which the state had no law to cover manslaughter. It was in this interim that Morse was shot and killed by Phillips in the course of a quarrel. His release by the judge was so resented by his neighbors that he was in real danger of being lynched."

According to T.W. Davisson (Dorothy Fischer's father) Phillips was "far from being a quarrelsome man" and was described as a patriot and good man sending 5 sons to the Civil War." Phillips' sons built a house for the Davisson family which still stands on that property today east of town on the south side of Rt. 34 just before the Earl Township building.

(excerpt from an article in the Daily Republican Times, 9/12/1944)

Museum Improvements!

The awesome volunteers have been busy little bees lately!! Below are the BEFORE and AFTER pictures of the outside of the little shed next to the Museum. We're not certain about it's use early on, but we do know that the shed was owned by and used for storage by the hardware stores dating back to Large and Johnson. It used to be sided with black tar-paper material until Charlie Beihl, a local carpenter, put a new front on it in the 1970's or 80's. Our efforts were to improve our appearance in the downtown area. We hope that Charlie would approve! The uses inside the shed are limited due to a leaky roof which we're hoping to rectify someday....



“It’s Hello Central!”

In the April 29th, 1898, Earlville Leader, the front page was filled with the excitement of the first telephone connection in Earlville. The Museum recently received a couple of photos of Earlville’s early telephone operators. This article shows us what it was like to “be connected” when it had a much different meaning.....

“Central Union Co. Arrives and Connects Up. First Trial of Line Monday,. Can Reach Many States.”

Earlville has telephone connection with the world, the first talking being done over the line Monday night by Manager S. Frank, of LaSalle, who called up a number of cities and conversed with people at the other end of the phone. Central is located in O.B. Kaull’s drug store and the proprietor of the store has been installed as manager. Mr. Kaull by way of experiment talked with a gentleman at Troy, N.Y. for a start and held conversations with nearby places. The first actual business transacted over the line began the following day. D.L. Barnard was called from his store by the messenger sent from the central office, and when he reached the phone learned that Mr. Herbert, a traveling man, had something to say to him. The gentleman was in Mendota and wanted to know if Mr. Barnard was in need of any undertaking supplies. It took but a short time to transact the business and would have saved the man a trip here if his customer had not needed any goods. As the line is not yet complete to Mendota, Mr. Herbert secured connection with Earlville by way of LaSalle, Joliet and Aurora.

The Leader man was invited by Mr. Frank to try the phone and we talked with the operator at Aurora for several minutes and it was about the same as two persons in ordinary conversation in a room together.

It is now possible for Earlville to talk with principal cities in all states east of the Missouri river. All the material that enters into the construction at the line that touches Earlville is just as complete and perfect in itself as any telephone line made and puts us on equality with other cities. It is the regular copper metallic circuit system with No. 12 wire and makes the transmission of sound as perfect as it can be made.

The line that touches Earlville is the Central Union Telephone Co. with headquarters at Chicago and this company operates in 3 states—Illinois, Indiana and Ohio. They have immediate connection with possibly fifty other large telephone companies operating in the middle and eastern states and a movement of the hand at any central or exchange office connects one line with another. Usually not more than a half dozen towns are on any line. For example, temporarily Earlville is on a line with ten other towns. To call up Earlville now any one of those 10 towns ring seven times and that signal brings the Earlville operator to the phone. That makes it too complicated and it is greatly simplified and the public is kept from mixing up their conversations by having a central exchange for about every fifth town, then the exchange calls up the next exchange and so on by ringing the right signal, or any intermediate town by the required number of rings.”

(continued on page 6)



1914—Earlville Switchboard Operator
Pearl (Harger) Hughes

DeKalb County Barn Tour

On Saturday, August 11th, the DeKalb County Agriculture Heritage Assoc. and the Glidden Homestead and Historical Center sponsored a historic Barn Tour including 8 structures within Paw Paw township just north of Earlville. It was reported that between 500-700 people visited each site. Many of the visitors were from urban areas having never been in a rural setting. Two busloads of foreign students were among those who made the tour. Thanks to the organizers who featured our Museum in their program.



....are always needed and welcomed!
If interested in lending a hand and learning about Earlville please contact us at:
earlville.history@yahoo.com

What's New at the Museum?!

We are appreciative of ALL donations. Here are a few of some of the unique items that have come in recently.....

- 1933 Poster with Earlville Cardinals playing the Mendota Coca-Colas in basketball—Fischer Family
- Photos of telephone local operators—Mary Ann (Hughes) Garrow
- Navy Uniform—Schrecengost Family
- Lions Club vest with pins—Dorothy Storkman
- Pair of inside doors for the fire escape at the old 1900 school building—Schrecengost Family
- Photo of Dr. Tillman's veterinary building—Ken Tillman, Sr., Family
- Window opener for the old 1900 school from Miss Gallagher's classroom—Ramona Schweiger

Just a Little Reminiscing..

During the month of August we hosted a little informal get-together with a small group of our members—ladies only this time! We took the time to inquire about family history, residences, and childhood memories while enjoying a few cookies and laughs! Thanks to LaVerle Carter, Ramona Schweiger, Shirley Bauer, June and Phyllis Novak, and Jo Malley for taking the time to share their stories with us!



Calendar of Events



Sep 1	ECHS Meeting
Sep 16	DUCKY DERBY!!!
Oct. 6	ECHS Meeting
Nov. 3	ECHS Meeting
Dec. 1	ECHS Meeting

(continued from Page 4)

“At present the line has not quite reached Mendota—which point will be our central permanently. Then unless we want some one of the half dozen towns on our line we first call Mendota (central) by one ring and if the operator there cannot give us the town wanted on their line calls their central and if that central cannot do so they in turn call another central further away and so on. To call up any business house or citizen in Chicago, Earlville will ring up Mendota and say “Aurora please” and when Aurora says “hello” Earlville asks for Chicago, and when Chicago says “hello” the firms telephone number is given and you are ready to talk to your man at once. After you have your man ready to talk to, for 3 minute conversation it costs \$0.45. To Aurora it costs a quarter. Price varies according to distance and number of connections the same as telegraphing varies. For a quarter you say ten words in a telegram while for the same money you can say 300 if you try over the telephone.

At present Earlville will not have a local exchange—it requires 25 patrons to warrant installing a person to be present at central constantly. That will be taken up later and no doubt the required number could readily be secured.



The charge for residences is \$2 per month and business houses \$3 per month and citizens could talk as much as desired locally paying the regular prices for talking with outside points.

The long distance telephone instrument is different from the instrument put in the local service which is called the Blake outfit. With the Blake outfit 300 miles is the limit while there seems to be no limit to the long distance instrument. Citizens having a Blake instrument put in their house can call up Central (Kaul's) and talk to any city the line reaches in states east of the Missouri river.

“The manager of the Earlville central whispered to several places and received an answer by whisper hearing it plainly. Persons writing down what each other say can hear the sound the lead pencil makes. Tuesday Mr. Frank was talking to someone far away just as the water works whistle blew and he asked them if they heard it and they said yes.”

(Earlville Leader April 29, 1898)

Here's a couple more fun facts....

Kaul's Drug Store (the first telephone “central”) was located on Ottawa St. (west side) next to the Wallace Hotel. We believe that the pictures included in this article were from the second floor.

D.L. Barnard's Furniture Store (the first business deal) was located on Ottawa St.—the south end of the old Kaleel building (north of the Bowling Alley)

Switchboard operators were often referred to as “Hello Girls”. During WWI many were trained in French and English and were sworn into the U.S. Army Signal Corps and assisted with communications on the western front.

Earlville Community Historical Society

A Not-For-Profit 501(c)3 Organization

MEMBERSHIP FORM

New Member

Renewal

Membership Type/Dues (after initial payment, dues are collected each Nov/Dec for following year)

Individual (\$15.00 *per person* - annually)

Business/Institution (\$50.00 annually)

Family (\$30.00 annually)

Individual Lifetime (\$150 *per person* - one-time payment; no annual dues)

Business/Institution Lifetime (\$300 – one-time payment; no annual dues)

Member Information

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email Address* _____

**To avoid postage costs we would like to send newsletters to your email account.*

Do you have a Facebook Account? Yes/No

If yes, please “like” our Facebook page by searching for:

Earlville Community Historical Society

Send this form and your dues to the following address:

Earlville Community Historical Society

Attn: Membership

136 S Ottawa St.

PO Box 683

Earlville IL 60518

Eff. 11/11/2016